

West Nile Virus is Here to Stay!



Protect your horse!

Vaccinate today!

Once West Nile Virus (WNV) is introduced into an area, the disease is likely there to stay. California became the focus for WNV in 2004 with 540 confirmed clinical equine cases and again in 2005 with 456 confirmed clinical cases. During this two year period, over 40 percent of clinically affected horses died or were euthanized.

WNV is a mosquito-borne disease. Minimizing exposure to mosquitoes from dusk to dawn, applying insect repellent, and eliminating sources of standing water can decrease the chances of your horse being exposed to WNV.

Therefore, WNV vaccination is crucial to ensure your horse's health. Basic vaccine product guidelines are as follows: an initial series of two WNV vaccinations 3-4 weeks apart, plus annual boosters. Horses are not fully protected until they have had two initial injections and are up to date with booster vaccinations. The number and timing of booster vaccinations may vary depending on seasonal climate and geography. Therefore, horse owners are urged to contact their veterinary practitioner to ensure the vaccination status of their horse is current.

For more information on West Nile Virus in horses, call the Equine West Nile Information line 1-800-268-7378 or email WNVirus@cdfa.ca.gov or visit http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/wnv_info.htm.



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